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PATENT  
450100-4465.1

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Takumi OKAUE et al. Notice of Allowance  
Dated: 04/27/2004  
Serial No. : 09/467,221 Confirmation No. 2064  
For : EXTERNAL STORAGE APPARATUS AND CONTROL APPARATUS  
THEREOF, AND DATA TRANSMISSION RECEPTION APPARATUS  
Filed : December 20, 1999  
Examiner : Ahshik Kim  
Art Unit : 2876

745 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York 10151

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with  
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Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on July 2, 2004

William S. Frommer, Reg. No. 25,506

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of Applicant, Assignee or Registered Representative

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

July 2, 2004

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date of Signature

**RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

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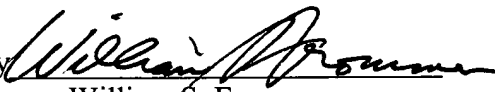
Sir:

This is in response to the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance, which  
accompanied the Notice of Allowance mailed April 27, 2004. To the extent the Examiner's  
Statement of Reasons for Allowance states, implies or is construed to mean that the claims are

allowable over the prior art of record because the Examiner believes the claims should be interpreted to include one or more features or limitations not recited therein, Applicants' attorney disagrees with such an interpretation. Moreover, it is Applicants' contention that there is no particular limitation in the allowed claims that is more critical than any other. The issuance of the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance should not be construed as a surrender by Applicants of any subject matter. It is the intent of Applicants, by their attorney, to construe the allowed claims so as to cover the invention disclosed in the instant application and all equivalents to which the claimed invention is entitled.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attorneys for Applicants

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